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Preface to the Third Edition.

IN offering to the public the third edition of this work, we take great pleasure in announcing that two editions have been exhausted in a very short time, and from this most practical evidence of its merits, we are encouraged with still stronger hopes that this greatly enlarged and improved edition will be yet more successful. Appreciating as we do the public favor the work has received, we have been stimulated to still greater efforts to merit for it a continuance of the same, by rendering this edition even more deserving of patronage. Obsolete rules and customs have been omitted, and new ones, now in use, have been introduced into the work, so as to enable us to present to the reader the Code of Etiquette as at the present time recognised by polite society. In minor details beyond the scope of this book, the reader is left to his own refined and cultivated judgment, always bearing in mind the definition of true politeness,—*benevolence or kindness in the more minute affairs of life*. Properly instructed by the Book of Etiquette, a pure and generous heart and cultivated mind

will be enabled to supply the omission of any rule required for intercourse with the most refined society

THE APPENDIX.—The principal improvement that recommends the present edition is the Appendix. Great care has been taken to render it a complete and perfect Guide through the Metropolis and its environs. Those who visited Washington four years ago will find it now almost a different city, so greatly has it been improved and beautified by the munificent hand of the Federal Government and by the enterprise of its citizens. Travellers visiting Washington now have no hesitation in saying that it is destined to become the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world. We have embraced every thing new and interesting in the Appendix, which contains *accurate descriptions* of the *city* and its *public buildings* in their present advanced and enlarged condition, so that the visitor in Washington cannot feel like a stranger so long as he possesses this little book as his companion or *vademecum*.

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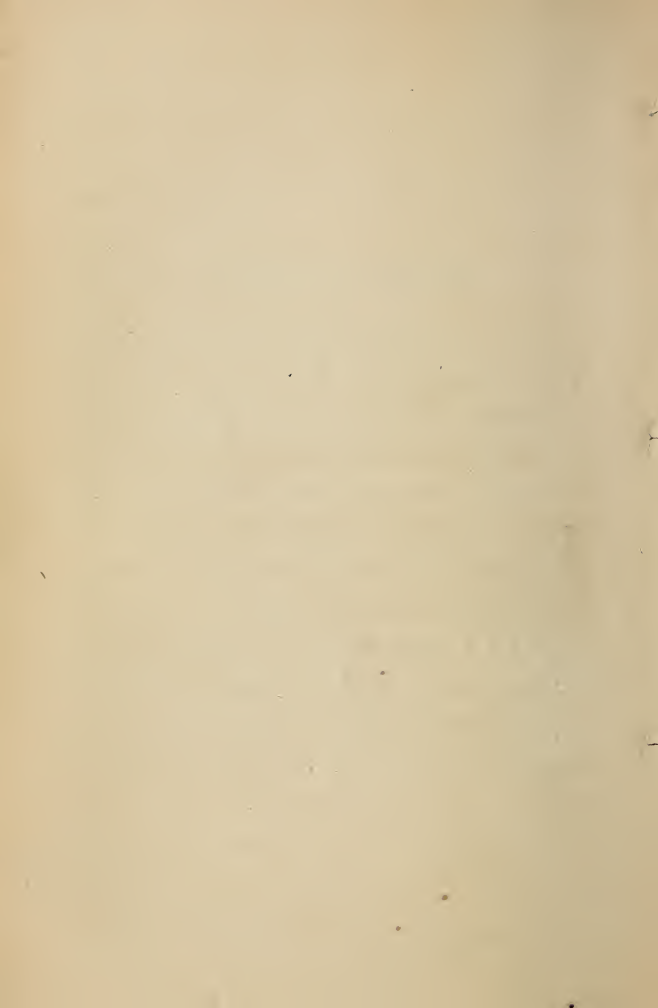
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Introductory Remarks.

ONE of the boasts of our country is that no barrier is offered to personal advancement. This is not true in theory alone, but in practice, and, therefore, it constantly occurs that those who have spent their early lives in acquiring property find themselves placed in a position in society new to them, and for which they are not at once prepared. It is the purpose of this little work to exhibit to such as these, as well as to all who are not familiar with them, the rules which regulate society in the UNITED STATES.



USAGES

PECULIAR TO WASHINGTON.

The President of the United States.

THE President of the United States receives visits every day, from eleven to one o'clock, except when engaged in session with his Cabinet or otherwise called off by official duties. There are certain days in the week set apart as "Cabinet days," usually Mondays and Fridays; but the exigencies of the government frequently require extra sessions. The days for holding Cabinet councils are

subject to the caprice of each incumbent of the Presidential chair, and are therefore far from being fixed.

The mode of obtaining access to the President ordinarily is exceedingly simple. An individual who desires to have an interview with him is shown into an ante-room, where he awaits his turn for admission. When it arrives, the messenger announces his name to the President, accompanied by his card, and he is forthwith ushered into his presence. If he seeks that functionary on business, it is despatched, and he retires; and if to form his acquaintance, he is presented usually by a member of Congress, or some personal friend of the President. A visit of this nature should not be extended beyond five or six minutes, because it must be remembered that, however

agreeable it may be to the party visiting, yet so important a personage as the President of the United States never has any time to spare.

Every citizen of the United States who visits Washington considers that he has a claim to visit the Chief Magistrate of the Union; and he is accordingly presented to him, and, after *shaking hands* and conversing for a few moments, retires, delighted with the suavity of the President, and elevated in his own estimation.

Strangers who are awaiting an audience in the ante-room are frequently much annoyed at witnessing individuals who come long after admitted before them. The persons thus admitted are usually connected with the government, and hence the necessity for the preference. Members of the

Senate, and Chairmen of the Committees of the House, are immediately announced, and take precedence, with great propriety, because they are presumed to have official business which cannot be delayed. Yet, with all this, we will venture the assertion that it is easier to gain an interview with the President of the United States than with the most petty noble in a monarchy.

In addition to these morning visits, the present President holds a public levée from 12 M. to 2 P.M., once each week, for the reception of general visitors. It would be in the highest degree impolite to approach him with business on these or any other public occasions. *Tuesdays* are at the present time set apart for these weekly levées.

The President and his lady receive evening calls sociably from their friends after eight o'clock every evening in the week that is not appropriated for more public receptions. These matters are, however, regulated by the pleasure of each incumbent of the White House.

The President receives his friends on stated evenings during the week. During the winter season Fridays are set apart for this purpose, on which occasions strangers are presented to him in a more formal manner. Visitors are not expected to arrive before nine nor to remain after eleven o'clock, and appear in full dress.

The President is not expected to return visits under any circumstances.

An invitation to dine with the President cannot be declined, except under the most pressing circumstances,

without the greatest breach of respect to the Chief Magistrate of the Union. An invitation from him is a sufficient apology for declining an invitation previously given and accepted. The President's private secretary hands to each gentleman a card, on which is written the name of the lady he is to escort to dinner.

On the 1st of January, as well as on Friday evenings, the President holds "public levées," at which all persons disposed to avail themselves of the privilege are at liberty to attend, whether acquainted with him or not. On the day first mentioned, the representatives of foreign governments (who are admitted a half hour before the public) appear in court dress, and the officers of the army and navy in full uniform.

On other occasions no display of uniforms is made at the President's receptions, except on a particular fête-day, or when a more than ordinary respect is intended to be shown.

In conversation with the President of the United States it is customary to address him as "MR. PRESIDENT." His lady, however, is addressed simply as "*Mrs.*," and not as "*Mrs. President.*"

It would be regarded as a breach of etiquette for an ex-President to return to the seat of government, unless called again to the Presidential chair.

The Vice-President and the Cabinet.

THE Vice-President of the United States, as the presiding officer of the Senate, takes rank next to the President. It is his privilege, as well as that of the members of the Cabinet, not to be aware of the return of any individual, however distinguished, to the metropolis, until he shall have received a visit from him in person, which, if his engagements render necessary, he may return by his card. Judges of the Supreme Court are entitled to the first visit from Senators and Representatives.

A Senator is entitled to the first visit from a member of the House of Representatives. He may send his card to a member of the Cabinet on

his arrival in the city, which will entitle him to a visit.

The same order of priority is applied to visits between the ladies of the above-named officials.

It is the custom for each of the members of the Cabinet, once or twice during the season, (which is between the 1st of January and Ash Wednesday,) to give a grand fête, rather celebrated for the number of guests than any thing else. Invitations to these fêtes are given to hundreds of persons with whom the entertainer has no personal acquaintance, but which are solicited by some friend, or in some instances by a card previously left at that functionary's residence.

These parties, like the public levées of the President, are intended to be in keeping with the peculiar character of

our institutions; and it is remarkable what order and decorum prevail at both, notwithstanding the absence of all force except the self-respect of the guests present.

The above entertainments have been, in recent years, somewhat superseded by evening receptions from nine to eleven o'clock, of which each Cabinet minister gives from two to four, or more, as he may prefer. The invitations are sent out at the opening of the season, specifying on one card all the evenings of reception. Some slight refreshments are handed around.

Foreign Ministers.

UPON the first arrival of the representative of a foreign government in the United States, it is proper for him to address a letter to the Secretary of State, apprizing him of his arrival, accompanied by a copy of his credentials, and asking a time to be fixed for a formal presentation of the original.

To this letter a response is speedily given, fixing the time for the audience. When it arrives, the representative of the foreign government should call at the office of the Secretary at the Department of State.

If he be a Minister Plenipotentiary, the Secretary accompanies him to the

President, to whom he delivers his credentials, with some general remarks suitable to the occasion.

If he be a *Chargé-d’Affaires*, he presents his credentials to the Secretary of State, with whom he is by his grade officially placed in contact. After the presentation of his credentials, it is customary for the Secretary of State to present him to the President, but not, as in the case of the *Envoy Extraordinary*, to allow him to present his credentials.

The first visit is due to the Foreign Ambassador, except from the Vice-President, Judges of the Supreme Court, and Senators.

General Society.

ON the arrival of a family in Washington, it is usual for them to announce the fact to their friends by sending their cards. This custom has many advantages. A family may have arrived in town, and yet not be desirous of immediately receiving visitors, for obvious reasons. They are by this mode left at liberty to select the time of re-entering into society.

It is quite common in Washington to make visits by card. Ordinarily, the lady of the family or her daughters drive to the houses of their acquaintances during the hour for morning visits, and drop their cards without leaving their carriage. The husband's card may be left at the same time.

Morning calls are made between the hours of twelve and three. If paid earlier than the former hour, they may interfere with the domestic duties which each lady has to engage her, and, if later than the latter, may usurp the time for preparation for dinner, which is usually between the hours of four and six.

It is not unusual to find persons of the highest distinction in Washington at lodgings, or in the house of a friend. When a call is made upon one so circumstanced, the visitor should remain below until the servant announces his name and obtains the direction of the person visited.

If he request the visitor to come to his room, he should be preceded by the servant, or be careful to knock before opening the door.

When he has gained admission he should never take a seat until it is offered by his entertainer, nor throw off the garb of ceremony, even in the apartment of the most familiar friend. An intimate friendship forms no excuse for a disregard of the conventionalities of society, and friendship is more likely to be retained by a strict observance of these than by their neglect.

When a stranger calls upon the Representative of his district, he should remember that their relations may not be the same as at home; he should therefore not presume upon their previous acquaintance to enter into any undue familiarity. If the member fills an elevated position in the House, he is entitled to respectful consideration; if his position is less prominent, he

will feel jealous of his station and possibly greatly magnify it. In either case nothing will be lost by an observance of the strictest decorum: let the approach to familiarity be all upon his side.

An invitation to dinner specifies, or should specify, the hour for dining, and each guest should be punctual to the minute.

Guests to evening parties are expected to assemble between nine and ten o'clock. It is not unusual for persons coming from the country to find themselves in an awkward position by going to the house of their entertainer before this time. The writer once knew an exceedingly plain-mannered but excellent woman, the wife of a member of Congress, who received an invitation to an evening party, given

by a member of the Cabinet, shortly after her arrival in the metropolis, and who complied with it by visiting the house at six, as was the custom in her part of the country, instead of nine o'clock. She was received with kindness, but an embarrassment which she could not fail to mark, and, after the assemblage of the guests, was glad to escape, deeply mortified at her error.

There is no place in the United States where less attention is paid to mere money than at the seat of government; and the millionaire, whose magnificent equipage attracts such attention in the commercial cities, is surprised at the little influence he exercises here. The truth is, that the great personages who form the centre of attraction are generally not rich men, and make but little attempt in

their style of living. It is no unusual thing to find a Senator, whose lofty talents and gifted eloquence are the theme of every tongue, plainly lodged with his family at furnished apartments, provided for him by a French cook, or forming a part of a mess composed of six or eight of his' fellow-Senators.

There is this difference betwixt the residences of the inhabitants of Washington and those of every other city in the Union, that the first are intended to live in, and the second to display the ostentation of their occupants. In Washington no one is elevated in society by his residence; in the other cities it has much to do with his position. In Washington, therefore, no one thinks of his residence beyond his own personal comfort, and is content

to be plainly lodged; whereas, in the commercial cities, where wealth has so much to do with position, the merchant who is obliged to resort to adventitious means to elevate himself endeavors to outstrip his neighbor in the cost of his house and the magnificence of his furniture, not to add to his personal comfort or that of his family, but to compel society to give them a certain position in the "beau monde." In Washington this attempt would be unavailing; in the commercial cities it is always attended with more or less success. Hence, in Washington the tone of society is more elevated, freer from restraint, and consequently more agreeable, than in most of the other cities.

CUSTOMS

ADOPTED BY POLITE SOCIETY IN ALL THE
PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Acquaintance.

THERE are three modes of forming acquaintances:—1st, by letter of introduction; 2d, by a personal introduction; and 3d, by dispensing with these forms and meeting upon common ground.

As an acquaintance, when once formed, cannot be slighted, except for sufficient cause, without a gross departure from true politeness, it is very important to be careful in making one.

Letters of Introduction.—There is perhaps no civilized country on the globe where letters of introduction meet with a more cold and uncertain return than in the United States; and so doubtful is their reception that many gentlemen decline to present them altogether.

A letter of introduction implies an acquaintance with the person introduced on the part of the introducer, and a belief of his fitness to be introduced into the society of the friend to whom he introduces him, and asks this much for him. But the bearer of the letter may find the position of the person to whom he brings it such as not to make this acquaintance desirable, or the individual to whom the letter is brought may have sufficient

reason for wishing to dispense with this form.

Each of these ends may be accomplished, and all the parties rid of a very unpleasant dilemma, without violating any principle of etiquette, by the observance of a few simple rules, which generally obtain among well-bred persons.

A letter of introduction should be unsealed, or, if sealed, it should be done by the person it introduces.

It is a frequent custom to present letters of introduction in person. This method is, for many reasons, a highly-objectionable one. During the perusal of the letter, a pause of great awkwardness to both parties necessarily occurs. The reader endeavors to find out the person who presents it, whilst the bearer appears to be waiting to re-

ceive such passing civilities as he sees fit to bestow, which, from the circumstances of the case, are necessarily of the coldest and most formal kind.

This may be avoided by sending the letter, with a card and address, by a messenger, to the person to whom it is directed. If he does not visit you in a very short time, you may rest assured that he would have paid little attention to you if you had presented it, and you may congratulate yourself at having escaped an unpleasant dilemma.

It is a good custom to write in the address the names of the person written to, the person writing, and the person introduced. This will avoid embarrassment.

The receiver of a letter of introduction is bound to visit the person who

bears it at once, as he offers an indignity both to the writer and bearer by allowing it to pass unnoticed. If his time is occupied, he may send his card.

The bearer of the letter may return this visit in person, or by card, as he is inclined, the following day.

Thus much is due to civility; but as yet no real steps have been made toward a friendly acquaintance. It now remains for the individual to whom the letter was addressed to determine whether he wishes to cultivate the acquaintance thus offered to him. If not, he is at liberty to allow the matter to drop here. If, on the contrary, he is disposed to continue the acquaintance, he may either renew his visit, or invite him to dinner, or to an evening party, or simply to his house, or show

his good wishes in such a manner as is most compatible with his circumstances and the supposed wishes of his new friend. This second overture is an avowed declaration on his part of a desire to continue the acquaintance.

It is now placed at the option of the person introduced to determine whether *he* wishes to continue the acquaintance. If *not*, he fails to return the second visit made to him, or declines the dinner or other civility offered. If he is desirous of continuing the acquaintance, he returns the visit or accepts the civility, and thus expresses *his* desire to become friends. Etiquette makes this first visit one of mere formality, the second one of real friendship.

Business letters, on the contrary, should be presented in person. The business is sufficient apology.

One cannot be too cautious in giving a letter of introduction. He should not only be well known to the person to whom it is addressed, but should likewise take very good care that the individual introduced is a fit person to be received into the society of his friend.

More circumspection should be used in giving a gentleman a letter to a lady than on ordinary occasions.

If a lady receives a letter introducing another lady, she should call upon her immediately; but if the letter introduces a gentleman, she may address him a note inviting him to call upon her at a specified time.

Personal Introductions.—Many persons are in the habit of introducing their acquaintances to each other on all occasions, while others never introduce them.

Whatever may be the usage of other countries, the custom prevails in this of introducing those persons to each other whom the introducer is well assured will be mutually pleased with the acquaintance.

Great circumspection is necessary in introductions, in order to avoid unpleasant results. A bare casual meeting furnishes no reason for an introduction. If the wishes of the parties are not previously ascertained, (which is always best,) the individual introducing should consider well the propriety of the introduction, and, having once settled this point in his own

mind, it becomes his duty to introduce his friends to each other.

Individuals may be so circumstanced as to be placed in a very unpleasant situation unless made acquainted; or their habits, modes of thought, and position in society may be so obviously similar as to place the propriety of the introduction beyond a question. In cases of this character, an introduction is no more than a mere act of politeness, which it would be rude to overlook.

It is frequently said that an acquaintance worth having is worth seeking for; and this, as a general rule, is true. But innumerable instances occur, where apparently-casual introductions lead to much more open and unreserved friendship than where the knowledge exists that one or the

other party took much trouble in procuring it. This, of course, implies a previous knowledge of each other.

Always introduce the gentleman to the lady, and not the lady to the gentleman, and a person of less distinction to one of a higher position.

In introducing one individual to another, the person who does it should be careful to mention the name of each party distinctly, with a word or two of explanation if they are entirely unknown to each other; as, "Mr. B., allow me to make you acquainted with Mr. R.

"Mr. B. is an extensive commission-merchant of Boston, Mr. R. a lawyer of eminence." This at once supplies the parties with a knowledge of the position and modes of thought of each other.

If the name is not distinctly understood, it should be asked immediately, as, "I beg pardon: did you say Mr. B?"

Acquaintance is a much more important consideration with ladies than gentlemen, and for this reason they are, or should be, more careful in making it.

As a general rule it is better for a lady to decline all introductions about which there is the slightest possibility of doubt, as she cannot so easily shake off an improper acquaintance, without some publicity.

Should she feel disposed to do so, it is better to decline seeing him or her, as politely as possible, so as to avoid the charge of rudeness; but even this must be encountered rather than keep up an acquaintance which might affect her injuriously.

No one is authorized to present a gentleman to a lady without first obtaining her consent, or knowing positively that it will be agreeable to her. A departure from this rule would be considered a breach of good manners, at which she would have cause to be offended.

It is not proper to take an acquaintance to the house of a friend without having first ascertained that it will be entirely agreeable. Care should be taken to explain *exactly* who the person to be introduced is, and your relations with him. There is no more effectual mode of alienating the friendship a family may entertain for an intimate acquaintance, than by his presuming upon this acquaintance to introduce his friends into their house without previous authority.

It sometimes becomes necessary to perform the unpleasant duty of ridding oneself of a disagreeable or improper acquaintance; and in no situation is true politeness more necessary than in this. The object is not to produce an open rupture, but simply to inform the proscribed person of a desire for a discontinuance of the acquaintance, which can usually be accomplished by an adherence, more rigid than ordinary, to the strict observances of ceremony. If he is too dull to observe this, more decided measures are warrantable; but in all cases it must be kept in view that true good breeding is to be sustained, and no mode adopted which will detract from the character of the perfect gentleman.

A person whose acquaintance it becomes necessary to discontinue is not

worthy of a quarrel; but a slight offered to a personal friend demands an apology or reparation. The true gentleman always takes great pleasure in adopting the first method.

Unceremonious Introductions.—There is no impropriety in dispensing with a formal introduction, if a person is found ready to meet another under circumstances which place the propriety of the acquaintance beyond a question; but one cannot be too careful in forming acquaintances among strangers, especially in places of public resort.

Affability is a distinctive characteristic of politeness, and frequently leads to a very unrestrained conversation among strangers when thrown together; but this cannot be considered as an

approach to acquaintanceship, and should be forgotten with the moment it served to enliven, except a mutual desire is expressed to continue the acquaintance.



Visits.

MORNING visits should be made between the hours of twelve and three, and should be of short duration,—say from five to fifteen minutes.

A gentleman should keep his hat in his hand during the visit, or, at all events, carry it with him into the reception-room, as it indicates that he does not intend to remain long.

It is not proper to observe the gentleman's hat, or offer to put it away for him, as he can dispose of it very readily if he desires to do so.

Between the hours above specified, the lady to whom the visit is paid should be prepared to receive her guests, if at home, *at once*, or direct

ner servants to say to them "*not at home,*" which is a mere conventional term, and means nothing more than that she cannot see them, and should not be construed into a mark of disrespect. It is impolite for her to keep her visitors long waiting, and appears as though she was not in the habit of receiving visits.

Should the lady to whom the visit is paid be preparing to go out, or to sit down to table, the visitor should leave almost immediately, notwithstanding the urgent request to remain. The lady visited should take good care not to show any surprise or discomfort at an inopportune visit.

At some houses one or more days in each week are set apart for receiving morning visits. This custom has its advantages.

A lady who *pays* a morning visit should do so in full street-dress: this is only a proper respect shown to the friend whom she visits.

A lady receiving a morning visit should be clad neatly, but with simplicity: jewels are entirely out of place here.

All conversations about one's household affairs should be studiously avoided. Nothing is more vulgar than for the lady to entertain her guests with her domestic annoyances, or *her troubles about her servants*. The natural inference is that she is either boasting, which is always disgusting, or that she has not long been accustomed to her present household.

The internal machinery of a household, like that portion of the theatre "*behind the scenes*," should on this as

well as on every other occasion be studiously kept out of view.

A card left at the house is all that is absolutely necessary in paying morning visits, even when the lady is at home, although some think it too formal. In Washington, this practice prevails to a greater extent than in the other cities; but it is found to be so useful that it is daily becoming more general elsewhere.

If a lady meets a gentleman at the house of a friend, and desires to continue his acquaintance, her father or brother may call upon him, which he can return by a visit to the lady as well as to her male relatives.

If a gentleman is presented to a lady at an evening party in a proper manner, he is at liberty to call upon her soon after, although he may not

have received a visit from her male connections. She is, of course, at liberty to make this acquaintance a slight or familiar one.

A lady may visit a public library and many other public places, unattended by a gentleman, without the slightest breach of decorum. This custom is in general use in Washington, and to some extent in the other cities, which are day by day getting rid of the provincialism that suggested its impropriety.

In Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, the principal public libraries are arranged with an eye to the visits of ladies; and in one at least, the Mercantile Library of Baltimore, containing nearly ten thousand volumes, the rooms during the early part of the day are expressly devoted to

ladies, who attend in large numbers. The same may be said of the Fine Art Exhibitions, under the patronage of Fine Art Societies, so deservedly popular in most of the large cities, a majority of whose patrons are *unattended ladies*. A concert or a theatre is another matter.

Ordinary evening visits imply a greater degree of intimacy, and must be regulated by the circumstances of the case. As a general rule, no evening visit should be made before eight o'clock, nor continue after ten.

New Year's Day Visits.

THE practice prevails generally in New York, and particularly in the other cities, of paying visits on New Year's day. The time of visiting on this day begins as early as ten o'clock and continues until three, or later. The lady remains at home to receive her visitors, who are usually gentlemen, and partakes of some refreshment with each, as wine and cake, or coffee, which is placed conveniently on a table.

Each visitor leaves his card, and remains but a few moments. The day furnishes an opportunity of healing up any estrangements or differences which may have risen among friends, and is one of great hilarity.

If a lady does not receive visits, a servant should be in readiness to receive the cards of visitors.

When a gentleman has many visits to pay, he may leave his card at the door without going in.

In Washington it is the custom for the most distinguished public functionaries to hold public levées, which are visited by both ladies and gentlemen.

The custom of receiving New Year's visits has, within a few years, become quite general in Washington among private citizens. Visiting begins at twelve and continues till three o'clock, and even later. Any visit paid before nine o'clock that day is, however, construed as a New Year's call. Sometimes cards are sent, or verbal invitations given; but the better custom is

to leave your acquaintances to show their desire to visit you by calling at their own suggestion. Full dress is appropriate on such occasions. The visits should be very short.



Dress.

THE dress of both the lady and gentleman is so much a mere matter of taste, and depends so greatly on the fashion of the moment, that it would be superfluous to prescribe any fixed rule for it. There are certain proprieties, however, which no change of fashion can alter. Small matters, as well-made shoes and gloves and appropriate handkerchiefs, frequently discover the true lady and gentleman. About these the well-bred person is always particular.

Every individual should dress in keeping with his circumstances; but no well-bred person will desire to appear conspicuous on account of the

extreme fashion or outlandishness of his dress.

It is due to society that its members should present a respectable appearance, but it is not dress alone which gives an individual a position in it. The more unassuming the dress, the more appropriate and respectable it is.

In full dress, a black dress-coat and pantaloons, with either a black velvet or light vest, are most suitable, although other colors are admissible.

A lady should be particular to select her dress with an eye to chasteness. Silky and pliable materials, which show the graceful contour of the female form, are more desirable than harsh unyielding ones.

A lavish display of jewelry, especially of a cheap kind, is improper.

For the morning dress jewelry is out of place.

There are dresses appropriate for the house, street, and carriage, which vary with each change of fashion. A lady should be careful to use each in their appropriate place. She may be plainly clad in her carriage if she will, but not conspicuously apparelled while walking.

The tailor and milliner have less to do with the formation of society than is generally imagined, and those who depend on such adventitious circumstances for their position will sooner or later discover how unstable was the foundation on which they had built. It is true that in every country the possession and lavish expenditure of money will bestow on its possessor a

certain consideration, which without other qualities will be a very doubtful one. Much as the Americans are accused of their adoration at the shrine of mammon, we think we hazard nothing in the assertion, that money—mere money—will procure less consideration in the United States, than in any civilized country on the globe.

In a commercial community like the United States, however, where fortunes are rapidly acquired and as suddenly lost, society is ever changing, and those who were quietly plodding their way yesterday are elevated on its waves to-day. This elevation is and should be the aim and ambition of every American citizen, provided he endeavors to qualify himself, not by

mere money, but by striving to refine his mind and elevate his character, for an exaltation of his position. One of the chief objects of this work is to assist him in this endeavor.



Gloves.

GLOVES should always be worn at church and other public assemblages, as the theatre and opera.

Ladies occasionally wear gloves at dinner. This is in exceedingly bad taste, and should never be done except to conceal some defect of the hands.

When meeting a lady, a gentleman should not stop to unglove before shaking hands, especially if his hand be moist with perspiration. It is awkward for both parties to be kept standing for some moments while this operation is effected, and destroys the frankness and ease which is supposed to prompt this mode of salutation.

It is a frequent custom for ladies, when about to walk or drive, to draw on their gloves while leaving the street door. This is highly improper: the toilet should be full and complete before leaving the dressing-room.

The color of gloves is subject to much caprice, and is regulated by the reigning fashion of the moment. At an evening party or the opera, however, black gloves are never admissible, even in mourning, except perhaps in the case of clergymen or physicians. White or light gloves are here always to be worn: the former are not now as much in use as formerly among gentlemen.

The Ball-Room.

PUBLIC balls or assemblies are usually under the direction of a board of managers selected for the occasion, under whose auspices the invitations sent out to the ladies, and tickets sold to the gentlemen, are placed. The intention ordinarily is to place such a guard over the admissions as to bring together a society which shall not be displeasing to those present; but as by the purchase of a ticket a person of a different description may gain admission, notwithstanding the vigilance of the managers, they cannot be held responsible for the character of those present.

The managers usually select from their number a "*committee of arrangement*," under whose direction the assembly is placed, and who represent the entertainers of the party, the others considering themselves, *with a qualification*, their guests.

It is the duty of this committee of arrangement to see that every thing is conducted with proper decorum; and, as an entertainer is exceedingly anxious to contribute to the enjoyment of his guests, so the intercourse of this committee with the other members of the party should be marked by the most studied politeness and anxiety to please. No appearance of authority should be assumed by them; and if any circumstance arises needing their interference, it should be done so quietly as not to attract the attention

of a single individual beyond those concerned. Above all, no manifestation of temper should be exhibited under any provocation, and no person is fitted for such a position who has not a perfect control of himself.

If an entire stranger desires a partner for a dance, he must solicit an introduction from a member of the committee of arrangement, who will introduce him to any lady he points out, if there is no impropriety in so doing. At all events, it is his duty to procure for him a partner.

It is highly impolite to ask a lady to dance, without an acquaintance, before being presented to her. She will most probably decline in such a manner as to convince the person making the request of her appreciation of his rudeness.

A lady is by no means compelled to dance with a stranger, if presented properly, but she is obliged to treat him with due courtesy. He has a right to demand a *polite*, and not a *cold, refusal*.

A lady may decline to dance with an acquaintance, without its being considered a just cause of offence. A gentleman has the privilege of selecting his partner, and there is no reason why the lady should not exhibit her preferences likewise.

It is polite to appear graceful rather than agile in the dance, and one should be particularly cautious about attempting much display in the steps or movements of the body.

The lady should be led through the figure with the utmost possible delicacy. Her partner has the privilege

of taking her hand for this purpose, but he should not abuse the privilege. He should simply touch and not grasp it; and in waltzing, particular care should be taken to avoid pressing her waist. It ought only to be touched with the open hand.

A gentleman should always be present to fulfil a previous engagement made to dance, lest he prevent the lady from joining the set, which is highly indecorous, and proves that he cares little for her.

It need hardly be said that full dress is the only one allowable in the ball-room. Light gloves are the only ones admissible; and no *gentleman* will attempt to dance with ungloved hands.

After conducting his partner to a seat, a gentleman may converse with her for a few minutes, if she does not

join the next set; but he must retire on the approach of another gentleman, unless he has a previous acquaintance. He should not attempt to seat himself beside her, without she requests it, but remain standing.

A ball-room acquaintance does not extend beyond the door of the room; and no one is justified in recognising a lady whom he chances afterward to meet, without she bows first, and in that case only by raising the hat. If a more particular acquaintance is desired, it must be sought by means of a new and more formal introduction.

It is allowable for a gentleman to pay a visit of inquiry to a lady of his acquaintance the day after meeting her at a ball, provided their relations are intimate.

Public Assemblies.

IF a gentleman accompanies a lady to a public assembly, and occupies a seat beside her, etiquette does not require him to relinquish it, unless, as sometimes happens, the seat is expressly reserved for ladies. Should he yield it, it must be considered as an act of courtesy and not one of right, and should be so received; but in so doing to a stranger, he should consider how far he is compromising the courtesy due to the lady under his protection. If he observes a personal acquaintance, he cannot well avoid offering her his seat, which she should decline if it is possible to obtain even an inferior one elsewhere, and if not,

accept with some kind or polite expression, as, "I am sorry to discom-
mode you."

If a gentleman visits a public assembly unaccompanied by a lady, he is entitled to his seat, except under these circumstances:—if a lady be an elderly one, fills a higher position in society, or is placed in a manifestly unpleasant situation by his retaining his position, the usages of polite society require that he should offer it to her, which she should accept with suitable acknowledgments. Her sex confers on her no privilege to be rude, or to receive a kindness without making such return as is in her power.

Should the gentleman offering the seat be one rendered venerable by age, or distinguished by position, a much stronger reason exists for the lady, if

younger or his inferior, to desire not to inconvenience him; and she should remember that, although she may avail herself of his offer, yet, if it is wantonly done, there are eyes, even of her own sex, fixed on her, who will draw conclusions not very favorable to her good breeding.

Some ladies, from false notions of propriety, conceive that it is necessary for a gentleman who accompanies them to a crowded assemblage to procure seats for them immediately, even at the expense of rude behavior, or perhaps personal altercation. There can be no possible impropriety in the ladies remaining standing, even for many minutes, until seats are provided for them by the politeness of the assembly rather than the discourtesy of their attendant. Indeed, it is

considered a mark of "haut ton" for a lady to appear somewhat independent under such circumstances, and not to exhibit an anxiety to shuffle herself into a seat as hurriedly as possible.



Evening Parties, or Balls.

A VERY common mode of entertaining friends among fashionable people is by giving evening parties or balls. The season for these entertainments usually begins about the 1st of January, and terminates at the beginning of Lent, or Ash Wednesday. Frequently evening parties are renewed after the cessation of Lent.

The invitations are issued by the *lady*, and *not* the gentleman, and are sent out about one week previous to the entertainment. They may be printed or written. The length of time betwixt the issuing of the invitations and the entertainment usually indicates its pretensions. Engraved

cards of invitation are now much used for this purpose, and are considered quite appropriate.

The gentleman may give a verbal invitation to a friend; but one so invited should take very good care to leave his card with the lady previous to the evening of the party, lest she be not aware of the invitation. A card left in this mode will bring about an explanation betwixt herself and husband.

The guests are expected to assemble betwixt the hours of nine and ten, before which every preparation for their reception should be in readiness. It is better to employ a competent person to superintend the internal arrangement than to leave it to chance: nothing is more ridiculous than an *attempt*. Better not to give the party at all than an

indifferent one. Its character will, of course, depend on the accommodations and amount of money expended; but let it be complete of its kind.

During the early part of the evening the lady should be stationed in one position in her drawing-room, to receive her guests as they enter.

A lady may precede the gentleman in entering the drawing-room, or lean upon his arm. Both should immediately approach the lady of the house, and exchange salutations with her before recognising any other person in the room; after which they should join their friends, and leave her free to receive new visitors.

It is the custom at some houses to announce the name of each guest as he or she enters the drawing-room.

If the lady should not at the moment

be in the room, the guests may enter into conversation with any one whom they chance to know, and make their salutations on her return.

Either the hostess or her husband may begin the dance. If the lady, she selects her partner, who is honored by the act; if the gentleman, he chooses the most distinguished lady in the room for his partner.

The lady entertaining should dance but little, in order that she may have time to attend to her guests; but when she does so she selects her own partner.

When supper is announced, each gentleman offers his arm to a lady, and, preceded by the host and followed by the hostess, the party enters the supper-room.

Gloves should be removed at sup-

per, but kept on during the rest of the evening.

It is in bad taste for a husband and wife to be much together in company, as they can enjoy each other's society at home. The purpose of mingling in general society is to enjoy that of others.

When refreshments are handed round, the gentleman at whose house the ball is given should not accompany the servant, but leave the guests to provide themselves with such articles as they desire.

A lady should be permitted to help herself, without she requests a gentleman to do it for her, because she is the best judge of her own taste.

It is impolite to place an empty glass or plate just used upon a waiter containing refreshments. A servant should follow to collect these things.

Servants should occasionally be sent through the room to procure any little thing a guest may stand in need of; but it is impolite to call off a domestic when handing refreshments to procure any article.

Card-tables are arranged either in a room set apart for that purpose or in the drawing-room, on each of which a fresh pack of cards should be placed. Those who are disposed to play draw a card from the pack, and all except the four lowest are excluded from the game. Betting is rarely practised for any thing beyond a trifling amount at general parties, and then never by *ladies*.

If any accident occurs it should pass unnoticed, especially by the entertainer. A lady who had suddenly sprang into affluence gave a large

party to her friends in her new house. During the evening a servant jostled the waiter on which he was carrying around refreshments, and overturned a large quantity of ice-cream, with other knick-knacks. This was too much for the good lady's philosophy, who exclaimed, "There goes the ice-cream over my new Turkey carpet!" and fell to the task of removing it with her own hands, infinitely to the amusement of her guests and the mortification of her friends.

Guests should retire as quietly as possible, and without taking leave of their entertainers, who should not notice their departure, lest it break up the company.

Music.

A SONG or two, or a piece of music well performed, at intervals, furnishes an agreeable relief to an assemblage; but when continued too long, so far from being agreeable, it degenerates into a source of annoyance.

A lady, when asked to sing, should do so at once, if she intends to sing at all. She should neither require great persuasion to induce her to begin, nor very decided hints to leave off. The sweetest-toned voice loses its effect by repetition, and no lady can long fix the attention of an audience.

It is highly impolite to keep up a conversation while others are singing, for, besides the distraction it occasions

to the person singing, it prevents others, with more refined taste, from listening.

One should be careful not to attempt the execution of a piece beyond his or her vocal powers. The singer should feel and express the sentiment of the song, if effect is desired; but all affectation is easily detected and ludicrous.

There is a great deal of ridiculous cant about music, which every person who essays to good breeding should be careful to avoid. The truth is, that, with the exception of an occasional opera at New York and New Orleans, and the Cathedral choir at Baltimore, we seldom hear music of the highest order in this country; and no individual who has heard two or three of the popular operas, performed by

as many passable singers, with a meagre orchestra and an inferior chorus, can lay any claim to nice musical discrimination. The faculty of *appreciating* music requires cultivation for its development, and as yet we have but few schools to improve it, in this country. There are many things of which, as a nation, we may be justly proud, but music is not one of them.



Funerals.

IT is proper to send printed invitations to such friends as the family desire to attend the funeral, in the event of the decease of one of its members. Those to the more intimate should be written. The invitations may with propriety be dispensed with altogether: there is no fixed rule on this subject.

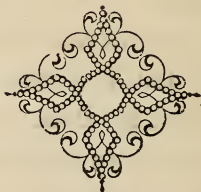
Visits of condolence should not be made before ten days after the funeral.

Return-cards for these visits intimate that the family are again prepared to receive their friends, and the time for sending them must be left to the option of the family.

Jewelry is out of place with mourn-

ing apparel. Furs, in the season, are appropriate, especially the darker ones, for ladies.

Notes and letters should be sealed with black sealing-wax, during the entire period of mourning.



Visiting - Cards.

A FAMILY, on arriving in town, after an absence of some time, should send their cards to their acquaintances.

The mother and daughters may leave their names on one card; but no daughter's name should be left who is not already "brought out," or who does not intend to make her appearance during the season.

When the visit is intended for more than one member of the family, separate cards should be left, especially if there be two married sisters, or a guest. The lady may leave her husband's card.

In leaving a card for a friend who is at the house of a person with whom you have no acquaintance, be careful not to write his name on it; else it may be construed into a mark of disrespect towards the family with whom he is tarrying.

In Washington it is *not* considered disrespectful to send a card by a servant, to return a visit. In the other cities the custom does not prevail to any extent. It is better, however, to leave it in person, everywhere, if convenient so to do.

After a wedding the cards of both the bride and bridegroom are sent around to their acquaintances, to inform them of the wish of the newly-married pair to continue their acquaintance. The parents of the bride send out the cards to their acquaint-

ances, and the bridegroom sends them to his. They may be enclosed in an envelop, but should never be tied by a white ribbon, as is sometimes done.

Cards left at the residence of the bride should be answered by cards notifying them when she will be prepared to receive a visit.

A lady who intends to give a formal ball or party should leave cards with those whom she intends to invite, one or two weeks previous to the issue of cards of invitation.

If an invitation of any kind is given to a person whom the inviter has never visited, it should be accompanied by his or her card.

When an individual or family are about to be absent for some time,

they should announce the fact to their friends by leaving a card with the letters P. P. C., (*pour prendre congée,*) or T. T. L., (*to take leave,*) written upon it.



Marriage.

A BACHELOR'S acquaintances have no right to consider themselves such after his marriage, unless he intimates a wish to continue the acquaintance by sending his card, together with that of his intended bride, to them, or personally requests a continuance; and no offence should be taken by not being numbered among his newly-selected friends; for a gentleman has an undoubted right to make a selection of such persons as he considers suitable associates for him as a married man, and he has furthermore an equally-undoubted privilege of living as retired as he chooses, on both

of which points he is certainly the best judge.

It is perhaps better for a bachelor to give a dinner to his friends at parting, in order to show that his discontinuance of *intimacy* arises from no improper feeling.



The Domestic Circle.

ONE of the holiest and most sacred of shrines is that which finds its abode by the domestic fireside, provided it is preserved in its purity. Society may be agreeable or disagreeable, and yet not furnish its participants more than momentary enjoyment or pain. Not so with the domestic circle. For weal or for woe, it is inseparably connected with the long hours of those who compose it; it is their life of pleasure or of pain. How vicious must that heart then be, which will light the face with a smile and clothe the lips with gentle words in society, only to exhibit itself in the privacy of this circle in a gloomy, fretful, and ill-

natured disposition! No matter how lovely the form or angelic the face, they cannot conceal the source from whence all this evil springs.

“Some flow’rets of Eden ye still inherit,
But the trail of the serpent is over them all.”

In the formation of matrimonial alliances, it is necessary to use the greatest care to ascertain that there be a similarity in social position, in thought, sentiment, refinement, education, intelligence, and disposition; for, without all these prerequisites, (and they are unfortunately too often overlooked,) marriage will entail misery instead of furnishing unalloyed happiness.

There is no reason why persons living in the same house should be less observant of ceremony than among

strangers. It is true that in the privacy of domestic life many of the more studied forms of etiquette are dispensed with, but none which interfere with true politeness or good breeding. Friendship, however intimate, should never degenerate into familiarity.

If a husband and wife think each other unworthy of the bestowal of these attentions, there will not long remain even the semblance of respect.

Among the most refined class of society, it is usual, when the house will admit of it, for the husband and wife to have separate dressing-rooms, and neither should perform before the other those duties of the toilet which, though necessary, might offend a delicate sensibility. Knocking at the door should not be dispensed with, even between husband and wife.

On meeting at the breakfast-table, or for the first time in the morning, each individual should salute the other with the customary salutations they would apply to guests, and with studied politeness.

It is the height of rudeness for a lady to appear slovenly dressed at this or any other time, and evinces not only a want of respect for those she may be thrown in contact with, but an innate vulgarity of mind. The dress may be exceedingly simple, but should be neat, and the hair carefully arranged. There is something excessively disgusting to a refined person in the idea of a half-made toilet, especially if the person offending be a female.

The conversation of a family circle is more familiar and less studied than that used in the formal intercourse of

society, but it should be equally marked by politeness and freedom from anything which may render it unpleasant. Inuendoes, or double meanings, which are the demons of private life, should be avoided, as the promptings of the evil one. A good rule is so to conduct conversation that the entrance of a stranger need not interrupt it nor change its tone.

A lady cannot be too particular in her domestic arrangements, especially those which conduce to the comfort of her husband. It is her province to preside over her household; and she should discharge this duty with great scrupulousness, yet without bustle or a display of temper.

The table may be simple and the fare homely, yet it should be arranged with the utmost possible neatness, and

in such a manner as not to disturb them if a guest unexpectedly drops in. On such an occasion, no excuses are necessary even for a plain dinner, as the circumstances will explain themselves, and any allusion to them in the way of an apology is considered ill-bred.

With proper management, a lady, by personal superintendence, if she has not a housekeeper, for a short time each morning, even with a small number of servants, may have a well-ordered household, without the performance of any of its drudgery.

No matter how exalted her position, she cannot possibly detract from it by understanding the arrangement of her domestic affairs, and even taking part in the preparation of those little delicacies of the table which few servants

readily comprehend without careful instructions from their mistress. An accomplished lady may well be proud of the delicacy and taste of the arrangements of her table.

In the management of servants, while no approach is made to familiarity, it should be remembered that they have sensibilities as well as their employers, and should be treated with mildness. Their manners will assimilate insensibly to those with whom they live. No reproofs or fault-finding toward servants should ever be indulged in at table.

Conversation.

CONVERSATION is the soul of society; and an individual who has not at least some pretensions to conversational powers, no matter what other qualifications he or she may possess, is fitted to perform a very poor part in it. It is true that every one is not gifted with the same intellectual capacity or colloquial powers, but, with attention to a few simple rules, each person may contribute somewhat toward the gratification of those in whose company he chances to be placed.

The great art of conversation is not only to interest the listener in the subject, but likewise to induce him to engage in it. A conversation in which

each individual finds himself irresistibly engaged acts like sparkling champagne, by enlivening the spirits of all who partake of it.

There are many learned persons who show badly in society for the want of the discrimination and tact necessary to keep up a conversation which shall elicit the views of those with whom they converse, as well as display their own mental ability. Hence, nothing is more common than to be greatly disappointed in a truly great man, when met for the first time in society.

An argument should never be carried on in a general company. Topics on which opinions widely differ, such as religion, politics, &c., should not generally be introduced. No individual is bound to correct the false opinions another may entertain, except when

circumstances make it a duty; and, if slight inaccuracies occur, it is far better to allow them to pass than to attempt their correction. Never to utter a word wounding the feelings of another is a cardinal rule of conversation.

It is exceedingly rude not to pay attention to a conversation addressed to yourself. If you are not interested, seize a proper opportunity for breaking it off in a polite manner.

No consideration will justify a loss of command over the temper; and every person should remember that, if he does not owe it to the society in which he is placed, he at least does to himself, to preserve his equanimity. Passion is even more objectionable in a lady than a gentleman.

Courtesy is a distinctive characteristic of gentility, and stiffness and hauteur

of the want of it. A polished person is always an agreeable companion, not only for his equals, but his *inferiors*. Gentlemen should allow the ladies with whom they are conversing to lead the conversation, especially so far as the selection of the topics, in order to prevent the selection of subjects beyond the depth of the latter's information.

Prolixity is always tiresome. One should endeavor to acquire the habit of condensing his thoughts into the fewest words, and relate only such points of a subject as are prominent, without going into detail, lest he get the reputation of a bore.

Especial care should be taken not to speak in the disparagement of an absent person. It is low-bred to take advantage of absence to say what dare not

be told directly to the person ; besides, although the curiosity of those present may be gratified, they will be certain to hold in little esteem the person who contributes in this manner to their entertainment.

A loud tone of voice and a boastful manner should be carefully avoided. A modest person is sure to be appreciated, and a boastful one laughed at in his absence.

An insult should never be resented, nor even recognised, in company. If the person to whom it is given is a truly brave one, he will choose the appropriate moment for redress.

Family matters should never form the subject of conversation. The good qualities of one's children may be very interesting to the parents, but cannot possibly much entertain another per-

son. If inquiry is made, concerning them, of a mother, she may speak of them and turn at once to another subject.

The difficulty of managing servants is a fruitful topic of conversation with many ladies, and always out of place. It is better, as a general rule, never to mention the name of servant, nor make the least allusion to domestic arrangements. Depend upon it, others do not care for them.

The name of a person with whom another is conversing should never be repeated. No one desires to hear his name called over and over from the lips of another, unless it is necessary to call his attention.

The person at whose house the company is should not take the lead in conversation. He should suggest topics

if no one else does, and, when it is fairly under way, leave it for the entertainment of others, taking care to supply any deficiency that may occur.

One of the great merits of conversation is to be intelligible and pertinent. The simplest language, and that which most directly approaches the point, is best.

It requires a peculiar faculty to relate an anecdote with effect, and he who has it not should never make himself ridiculous by attempting a part for which nature has not fitted him. Many great men are wanting in this particular, while many shallow ones possess this faculty in an eminent degree.

To be a good listener is as important as to be a good talker, and frequently more difficult, because most

men are fonder of giving their own suggestions than of listening to those of others.

Drawing-rooms frequently contain paintings and statuary, and a cabinet for bijouterie, or small articles of value. There is no impropriety in looking at these, as they are placed there for that purpose. Besides, they are frequently suggestive of topics of conversation. A painting or statue may have its story, and the little articles of rare workmanship their anecdote or remembrancer. A lady may with propriety call the attention of her visitors to any article of this kind, not on account of its price, which would display *vulgarity*, but of its beauty or rarity, which would manifest *taste*.

An article of furniture or dress may

likewise be admired on the same principle; but no allusion should be made to its cost, nor should the visitor ask from whence it was obtained. The possessor may voluntarily give that information if she chooses.



Dinner.

GREAT circumspection is necessary in inviting guests to a dinner; for, as they are necessarily introduced to each other, no one should be invited who would not be perfectly agreeable to the others.

As a general rule, the invitations should be confined to those who have a similarity of thought; or, if an exception be made, it should be in favor of persons of greater distinction.

The number of guests should be so arranged that neither two ladies nor two gentlemen will be forced to sit together, and their disposition at the table should have an eye to this successive alternation of lady and gentleman.

The time for issuing the invitations before the entertainment varies. One week is probably the most appropriate period, but it may with propriety range from two to fourteen days. The invitation should specify the *precise hour of dining*. This may be either four, five, six, or seven o'clock P.M.: five is the usual hour.

An invitation to dinner invariably requires an immediate answer, accepting or declining, and should be addressed to the lady. It is a piece of unpardonable rudeness to neglect a reply. After accepting an invitation to dine, should any circumstance occur to prevent the fulfilment of the obligation, the hostess should be immediately apprized of it.

In order to have a dinner pass off properly, every thing necessary must

be provided in advance, and the whole placed under the superintendence of an experienced domestic.

A waiter should be provided for every four guests, each of whom should have a white napkin in his hand, to place between his thumb and the plate he serves. Some wear white gloves; but this practice is not considered in as good taste as the white napkin. Waiters at *private* tables should not wear aprons.

Punctuality is of the greatest importance in attending a dinner. The guests should arrive neither too early nor too late, but *at the exact moment*. It is unpardonable to keep a company waiting beyond the appointed time.

Custom requires the guests to *ride* to the residence of the host.

It is proper for the host or hostess,

after the guests have assembled, to point out to each gentleman what lady he is expected to escort to the dinner-table, and even to assign each a seat at the table; but, where this is not done, when dinner is announced each gentleman offers his arm to a lady, and, preceded by the host, follows to the dining-room. The hostess invariably enters the room after all her guests, and is escorted by one of the most distinguished gentlemen present.

A husband and wife, or near members of the same family, should never sit together at a dinner.

The gentleman in whose house the dinner is given takes his place at the lower end of the table, and his lady at the upper: on either side of him are the two most distinguished ladies. Sometimes the host and hostess are

seated opposite to each other in the middle of the table.

It is considered the very height of good breeding for an entertainer to mingle with his guests as one of them, and not to indicate by word or look a difference. With a sufficient number of well-trained servants, and a plentiful table, this can be readily accomplished. It is truly surprising what freedom and hilarity such a demeanor on the part of the entertainer gives to the entire party, and what stiffness and restraint are imposed upon them by the ill-concealed anxiety of the host or hostess. Beneath this mask of nonchalance, care should be taken to see that each guest is well cared for, but in such a manner as not to attract notice.

An entertainment begins with soup,

a *small portion* of which is placed before each guest. If he does not desire it, he can allow it to remain untouched; but it is not proper to ask a second time for soup, except at a family dinner. When a guest is helped to soup, politeness does not require him to pass it to another, lest it get cool in passing.

Soup is succeeded by fish, which should be helped with a silver fish-knife. These two services are in reality but the prelude to the dinner, which follows them.

Carving should be performed at a side-table. If, however, an individual is requested to carve a dish, he should do it seated; and, if he does not feel competent, he may with propriety decline.

Gravy should be placed at the side of the plate, and not over the meat

and vegetables, and in small quantity.

In helping to a dish it is impolite to load the plate with any one thing; and, if it be a rarity, it should be served with discretion, in order that all may partake of it. Whenever it can be done in helping, a spoon should be used instead of a knife and fork. *Olives* may be taken with the fingers.

Napkins and silver forks are in such general use that no person would think of giving a dinner without them.

The business of a knife is to divide the food, and not to eat with. The fork should invariably be used for this purpose. There can arise no circumstance which would justify a person in carrying his food to his mouth with a knife. The fork may be assisted in its office by a piece of bread held be-

tween the thumb and finger of the left hand.

It is not the custom to ask ladies to take wine. Each lady is helped by the gentleman who sits next her; but no wine is circulated before the fish is eaten.

It is usual to drink the same wine with the person who requests you to pledge his health; but this practice is not invariable.

It is impolite to refuse to take wine with any person who requests it. The glass may be simply put to the lips.

When an article is sent by the host, it is not necessary to wait until others are helped before proceeding to eat.

The host and hostess retain their plates until their guests have finished their course.

The plate is changed with each

course, as well as the knife and fork, which should be placed on it when the guest has finished the course.

Finger-glasses, with water and two or three slices of lemon in each, are brought in with the dessert.

It is impolite *to order* servants at the table of another: *request* them in a mild manner to serve you to what you need.

It is not proper to collect a large mass of refuse around your plate. It is better to ask a servant to bring a plate on which to place and remove it.

Coffee may be served at the dinner-table after dessert; but it should not come on too soon. When gentlemen sit at wine after the ladies retire, it is served in the drawing-room. Some consider it more proper to serve it

always in the drawing-room; but this is a matter of taste.

The hostess gives the signal for the termination of dinner by rising. The gentlemen rise with the ladies, and, if they continue at table after them, remain standing until they have left the room, when they reseat themselves.

The entertainer should neither make apologies for nor praise the dinner. It is there,—so let it pass; and if any thing goes amiss let no notice be taken of it.

Each guest owes a visit to the hostess during the week following the entertainment, which it is impolite not to pay.

Invitations, Notes, and Letters.

AS a chief object of this volume is to instruct those who do *not* know the customary forms of society, it has been thought proper to append the following observations on notes, letters, &c.

A letter or note should be written on unruled paper, (white is preferable;) and, if addressed to a gentleman, his name in the superscription should terminate with Esq., unless he has a title, which should be given in its stead. In invitations *Mr.* is used instead of *Esq.*

White envelopes are now generally used, together with sealing-wax,

which is considered more respectful than a wafer.

The following was the form of invitation to dinner adopted by President Madison :—

“Mr. Madison requests the pleasure of Mr. Randolph’s company at dinner, on Tuesday next, at 7 o’clock.”

“Thursday, February 12.”

A note of this kind requires an *immediate reply*, which may be couched in the following terms and addressed to the *lady* :—

“Mr. Randolph has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Madison’s note, inviting him to dine on Tuesday next, at 7 o’clock, and takes great pleasure in accepting the invitation.”

Or,

“Mr. Randolph has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the President’s

note, inviting him to dine on Tuesday next, at 7 o'clock, and regrets that a severe indisposition, which confines him to his room, will prevent his acceptance of the invitation.

“Saturday, February 14.”

A husband and wife may be included in the same note of invitation; but, if other members of a family are invited, it is perhaps advisable to send separate invitations.

An invitation to an evening party should always be sent in the name of the lady, and does not require an answer, thus:—

“Mrs. Hunter requests the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Almont’s company, on Thursday evening, 15th instant.

“Monday, March 5.”

This may be written or printed.

Notes of the above description are

intended for dinners and evening parties of the most formal kind. When others of less pretensions are given, it may prevent disappointment by including in the note some explanation, thus:—

“Mr. R. would be happy to have the company of Mr. and Mrs. T. at a dinner to-morrow, ‘en famille.’ The dining hour is 4 o’clock.

“Wednesday.”

Or,

“Mr. R. would be happy to have the company of Mr. and Mrs. G. at dinner to-morrow, to meet Dr. H.

“But two or three other guests are expected. The dining hour is 4 o’clock.

“Monday Morning.”

An invitation to spend an evening may be written thus:—

“Mrs. D. would be pleased to see Mr.

H. on Wednesday evening. A small company only is expected.

"Monday Morning."

Or,

"Miss R. would be pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. W. on to-morrow evening, at a small whist party.

"Friday Morning."

In addressing a lady, a gentleman should be careful to use the most respectful terms.

"Mr. R. presents his compliments to Miss C., and begs her acceptance of the accompanying slight present.

"Wednesday, May 15."

A lady may with propriety address a gentleman thus:—

"Miss R.'s compliments to Mr. D., and would feel much indebted to him for the loan of the volume he was speaking of last evening."

Many of these forms may seem so familiar as to appear trifling; but, if they assist one well-meaning person in escaping from a dilemma in which the want of early advantages may have placed him or her, they will not have been written in vain.



General Observations.

A GENTLEMAN who meets a lady of his acquaintance in the street should always raise his hat from his head, in recognising her, and not simply *touch* it.

If a gentleman meets an acquaintance in company with a lady who is unknown to him, he should raise his hat from his head in passing.

The hat should be taken off in handing a lady from or to her carriage, or, indeed, in bestowing any similar attention upon her.

At a place of public amusement, it is polite for a gentleman, who is casually engaged in conversation with a lady, to retire on the approach of an-

other gentleman, unless there is some obvious reason for detaining him.

In escorting ladies to a place of public amusement, the gentlemen usually precede them in entering the room. He should always precede in crossing the street or in going up-stairs.

In visiting, it is improper to take the chair usually occupied by the lady or gentleman of the house, even if offered, unless the relations of the parties are so friendly as to cause them to dispense with formality.

In receiving visits, if but one guest is in the room, it is proper to accompany him to the street door on his departure. If, however, there are guests left in the room, a servant should be directed to perform that office.

In a drawing-room, it is better not to cross the room simply for the pur-

pose of bowing to a lady of your acquaintance, and, if you desire to engage in conversation with her, so arrange it that the meeting shall appear accidental. This is the more necessary if her position be an elevated one in society.

In visiting, the visitor should always send up his card, unless the ladies are in the drawing-room, in which case the servant announces the name at the door.

It frequently occurs that a lady desires to entertain her friends without the formality or expense of a ball or evening party. On such an occasion it is better to give them a verbal invitation; which may be delivered in person or through a servant, stating precisely what sort of a "*soirée*" is expected.

If invitations are written, they should not be sent before the day prior to the one on which the entertainment is to be given, and should state the character of the “*soirée*.”

Such an entertainment may be considered in the light of an evening visit, at which the guests would assemble, if the hour was not specified, at eight. The dress appropriate here would not be so at an “evening party.”

Professional gentlemen are excused from many of those strict observances of etiquette which might interfere with more important duties.

In society no one should appear embarrassed with rules which he is laboring to observe; but his manner, while conforming to the rule, should be calm, easy, and natural.

APPENDIX.

AS the stranger in Washington is frequently at a loss to know what objects of interest to visit, and the terms on which he may visit them, it has been thought fit, in order to render this work as complete as possible, to add an appendix, containing a brief and summary account of the more prominent of them.

The Federal City is about four and a half miles in length and about two and a half in breadth, stretching along the banks of the Potomac from the eastern branch to Rock Creek, in a direction from southeast to northwest. Its area

is 3016 acres, its circumference fourteen miles. The streets running north and south are named numerically—1st Street, 2d Street, &c.; those running east and west, alphabetically—A Street, B Street, &c. This monotony is agreeably relieved by magnificent avenues, from 130 to 160 feet wide, cutting them diagonally. The avenues are named after the several States of the Union, and radiate from the Capitol as a centre, forming at intervals throughout the city triangular lots, tastefully enclosed, and adorned with trees and shrubbery.

The depôt at which strangers arrive from the north and west is immediately north of the Capitol, situated at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and C Street, from which the approach to the principal thoroughfare (Pennsyl-

vania Avenue) lies southwest. Along this avenue are the principal hotels:—the Washington, on the corner of 3d Street and Pennsylvania Avenue; the United States, between 3d and 4½ Streets; the National, at the corner of 6th Street; Brown's Hotel, between 6th and 7th Streets, the Kirkwood, on the corner of 12th Street, and Willard's, on the corner of 14th Street. Besides these, there are several smaller hotels and many boarding-houses, the latter constituting a leading feature in Washington life. After securing a hotel or boarding-house, the stranger directs his attention first of all to

THE CAPITOL.

THE principal approach to this edifice from Pennsylvania Avenue, at the head of which it stands, is through a

wide-spread lawn of very ample dimensions, encircled with flower-beds, and tastefully ornamented with clumps and avenues of stately trees, in the midst of which sparkling fountains are constantly sending forth their gushing melody and coolness to the air. Following the course of one or the other of these shady avenues, he will gain by a flight of steps the approach to the Capitol by its western entrance. Having reached the ample terrace surrounding the building, he will stop for a moment to admire the scene presented to his view, and take in for the first time a partial outline of the city, which from this point is pronounced by those who have a lively conception of the beautiful, and, among others, by Baron Von Humboldt, to present one of the finest panoramic views in the world.

Immediately beneath his feet he will overlook the lawn through which he has just passed, containing thirty acres, and enclosed by an iron railing more than a mile in length, with the Naval Monument in a basin of water, within a few yards of him, while in the distance, spread out like a map, will lie the city, with its avenues, its mall, and its various public edifices, extending to the picturesque Heights of Georgetown on the one side, and the beautiful Potomac River—here upward of a mile in width—on the other. Beyond the Potomac he will see the Virginia shore, from a high slope of which Arlington, the seat of G. W. P. Custis, is visible, and, less distinctly, the antiquated and venerable town of Alexandria, Va., about eight miles distant.

From this point he will perceive

that the Capitol furnishes a nucleus from which the avenues radiate in all directions,—Pennsylvania Avenue, the principal one, being terminated by the grounds surrounding the President's Mansion, which furnishes another nucleus for the radiation of some of the avenues. Nothing can exceed the beauty of this scene at sunset, when the western sky is lighted up with the gorgeous tints of the rainbow, and the whole avenue is bathed in its golden light.

The Capitol consists of the original building as designed by Hallet, Hadfield, Hoban, and Satcobe, covering one and a half acres of ground; and the new wings now in course of erection, designed by the Government architect, T. U. Walter, and covering two and three-quarter acres of ground, making

the extent of the entire building four and a quarter acres. The original building is $352\frac{1}{3}$ feet long in front; the wing, 121 feet deep; the east projection, containing the portico and steps, 65; the west projection, containing the library, 83; the north and south wings, containing the Senate-Chamber and Hall of Representatives, are 70 feet high to the top of balustrade; the Senate-Chamber is 74 feet long and 42 high; the Hall of Representatives, 90 feet long and 60 high, both surmounted by domes; the Rotunda is 96 feet in diameter, and was surmounted by a grand dome 145 feet above the level of the ground, which has been removed to make place for another still more magnificent, which was designed by Mr. Walter, and will be over 300 feet high from the level of the ground. The new wings, now in

course of erection, are to the north and south of the original structure, and are intended for a new Senate-Chamber and Hall of Representatives; each wing is 238 by 140 feet. The erection of these additions has rendered necessary the enlargement of the grounds north and south, and at no distant day the Capitol park and gardens will contain about sixty acres. The building fronts toward the east, so that the principal part of the city, and all the public buildings, are behind the Capitol. The stranger, ascending the Capitol Hill from Pennsylvania Avenue, enters the building by the western door, and ascends a flight of steps leading to

THE ROTUNDA,

Which is a magnificent apartment, having cost \$2,000,000, occupying

the centre of the main building, and lighted from above. There are four entrances to this apartment,—one leading to the Senate-Chamber, one to the Hall of Representatives, one to the eastern portico, and one to the passage by which the stranger has just entered it. The panels over these doors are enriched by sculpture in bas-relief,—that over the one leading to the Senate containing a sketch of a treaty of Penn with the Indians; that over the one leading to the House, of a rencontre between Daniel Boone and the Indians; that over the eastern, the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth; and that over the west, the preservation of Captain Smith by Pocahontas. The sides of the Rotunda are divided into larger panels, for the most part filled with historical paintings. Four of these,

painted by Trumbull, represent the Declaration of Independence, the Surrender of General Burgoyne, the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and the Resignation of his Commission by Washington at Annapolis. An additional panel contains a painting by Chapman, representing the Baptism of Pocahontas, another the departure of the May Flower, by Weir, another the Landing of Columbus, by Vanderlyn, and the last, De Soto discovering the Mississippi, by Powell,—all of them splendid works of art.

The south door of the Rotunda leads into a circular vestibule, surmounted by a small dome leading to the lobby of the Hall of Representatives. From the lobby the entrances to the galleries of the house are gained, that immediately in front of the door leading to

the gentlemen's gallery, while two at the extremity of the lobbies open into the gallery set apart for ladies and the guests of members of the House. The floor of the House is appropriated to the use of members and persons privileged by the rules of the House.

Passing into the gentlemen's gallery, to which the stranger has free access at all times, he has an opportunity of observing the

HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

This apartment is of Grecian architecture, and is said to be one of the grandest legislative halls in the world, but is destined to be greatly eclipsed by the new Hall of Representatives in the addition to the Capitol. It is semi-circular in form, the chord being 96 feet, surmounted by a richly-painted

and gilded dome, whose apex is 60 feet from the floor. It is surrounded by a circular colonnade of twenty-four columns of beautifully-variegated marble from the bed of the Potomac, the capitals of the columns being of white marble, and of the Corinthian order. This colonnade supports the gallery from which our visitor is viewing the hall. The Speaker's chair is in the middle of the diameter, elevated above the floor, and richly canopied; in front of the Speaker's chair are the clerk and his assistants, and above is the ladies' gallery, fronting the representatives of the people. The goddess of Liberty over the Chair, the clock over the main entrance of the hall, the portrait of Washington, by Vanderlyn, on the right, and that of La Fayette, by a French artist, on the left,

(said to be an exact likeness,) are the principal works of art in this apartment. Returning to the Rotunda, and crossing over to its north door, the stranger finds his way into the gallery of the Senate-Chamber, which he is at all times, except during secret or executive session, entitled to enter.

SENATE-CHAMBER AND SUPREME COURT-ROOM.

This chamber is semi-circular and surmounted by a richly-ornamented dome. Within the line of the diameter is a row of Ionic columns, in the middle of which is the chair of the Vice-President or presiding officer of the Senate. Over and back of the chair is the reporters' and gentlemen's gallery; around the circumference of the semi-circle is the ladies' gallery, in which

the front row of seats are reserved for ladies, and the other row of seats are for gentlemen. The principal work of art in this apartment is the admirable portrait of Washington by Charles Wilson Peale. In the basement, and under the Senate, is the Supreme Court-Room, at the entrance of which a lamp is, during the sessions of the court, kept burning, as an emblem of justice. The busts of the deceased chief-justices adorn the walls. In the vestibule is a beautiful colonnade of American columns and capitals, representing the Indian corn, which Mrs. Trollope remarks in her book on America as the *only* specimen of original achievement in art she saw in this country. Returning to the Rotunda and passing out of the west door, through which he first entered, our visitor is led to

THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

This apartment, with its valuable contents, amounting to nearly 50,000 volumes, was destroyed by fire on Christmas morning, 1852. The books have mostly been replaced by new purchases in Europe and America, and the library now contains about 40,000 volumes, to which additions are constantly made. The room has been entirely remodelled, since the fire of 1852, by Mr. Walter, and is now the most brilliantly and elaborately ornamented apartment in the Capitol. The shelving, alcoves, railings, ceiling, &c. &c. are of solid iron, richly painted and gilded; and the library has three interior stories, rising one above another, receding as they ascend, and all stored with intellectual treasures. The first

or entrance-floor contains sofas, chairs, and tables, for the accommodation of visitors, who are prevented from reaching or handling the books by an iron railing passing round the room. Whenever a visiter wishes a book, he has only to ask for it, and it is immediately obtained for him by the librarian or one of his assistants. Catalogues are to be found on the librarian's desk. The library is open daily during the sessions of Congress, from nine to three o'clock. During the recesses of Congress the library is open from nine to three on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Members of Congress and high functionaries of the government alone enjoy the privilege of taking books from the library; but the members of Congress are in the habit of giving written authorities to their

friends to take out books in their names. The library looks out upon the western colonnade, from which there is a magnificent view of the grand avenue and the principal part of Washington and its suburbs. Returning to the Rotunda, and passing out of the eastern door, the stranger finds himself on the principal and

EASTERN PORTICO.

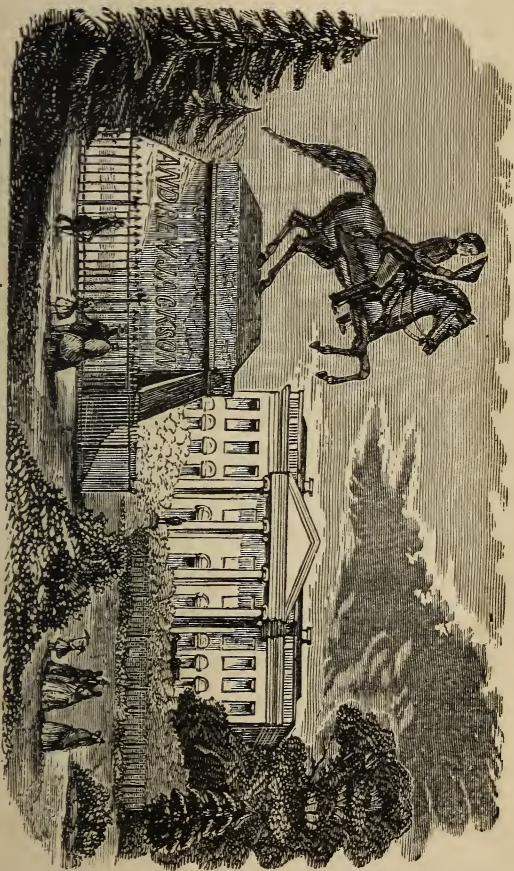
Here is to be seen the grandest collection of statuary in this country. On the portico, and to the right of the door, is the statue of *War*, and to the left is the statue of *Peace*, both by Persico. Descending the steps will be seen on the right or southern abutment Persico's group representing the *Discovery of America*; on the left or northern abutment is Greenough's group, repre-

senting the advance of *Civilization* toward the West. The columns of the portico are of the Corinthian order, and are surmounted by a tympanum, embellished by a group of statuary in bas-relief, representing the *Genius of America, Hope, and Justice*. This group was designed by President J. Q. Adams, and adopted after forty designs by artists had been rejected. In the eastern grounds is a colossal *Washington*, by Greenough.

THE PRESIDENT'S MANSION,

Familiarly known as the "White House," is the next object of interest. It is a chaste and republican building, of the Ionic order, one hundred and seventy feet long by eighty-six deep, with a fine portico facing the north. It is situated on a plat of ground

PRESIDENT'S MANSION AND JACKSON STATUE.



of twenty acres, adorned with trees, shrubbery, fountains, gravel walks, &c. The entrance to the mansion is into a large hall, from which the visitor enters an oval room, beautifully furnished and adorned, and frequently called the *blue room*. Next is a very handsome square room, known as the *green room*, in which the ceremonies of reception usually take place. The east room adjoins the latter, is eighty by forty feet, and is twenty-two feet high. This room is the chief attraction of the White House, being in its splendor and magnificence the greatest departure from republican simplicity which is to be seen in the metropolis. In the garden in front of the President's Mansion stands the

STATUE OF JEFFERSON

In bronze, the statesman being represented with a pen in one hand, and a scroll, on which is engraved the Declaration of Independence, in the other. This statue was presented to the government by Captain Levy, late of the U.S. Navy, and now the proprietor of Monticello, the former residence of Mr. Jefferson. Crossing the avenue in front of the President's grounds, the visitor enters La Fayette Square, which is the most beautiful in Washington, and in the centre of which stands that great achievement of American genius, the

EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF JACKSON,

One-third larger than life. The horse is represented as rearing, self-balanced and sustained; and the general is

waving his hat in response to the testimonials of affection shown him by his troops, whom he is supposed to be reviewing. The work is by Clark Mills, who is now engaged, by order of Congress, on a bronze equestrian statue of Washington, of much greater dimensions. On the northeast corner of President's Square stands the

STATE DEPARTMENT,

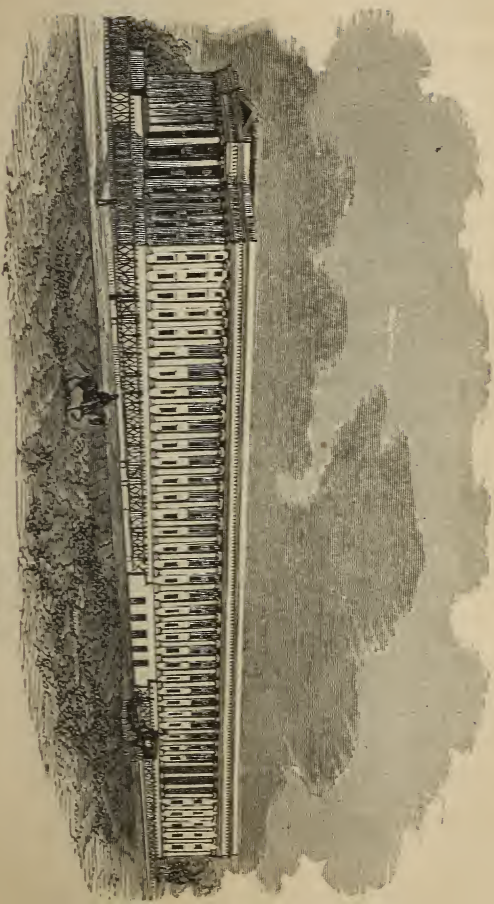
Which is a plain brick building two stories high and one hundred and sixty by fifty-five feet. In this building are conducted the affairs connected with our foreign relations. It contains thirty-two rooms and a library of twelve thousand volumes, being the copies deposited for copy-right and works on diplomacy and international law and the laws and law-reports of the several

States of the Union. Adjoining the State Department is the

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

This majestic structure is three hundred and forty feet long, and has a wing in the rear one hundred and seventy feet long. A south wing is also to be added, whose foundations have already been laid. Also, a north wing is to be erected, to supersede and be used for the purposes of the State Department. A grand colonnade stretches the entire front of the building, after the pattern of the temple of Minerva, at Athens. Besides the offices of the Treasury Department, the General Land Office is kept in the highest story of this building. On the northwest corner of the President's Square stands the

THE TREASURY BUILDING.





WAR DEPARTMENT,

Which is similar in structure, style, and size, to the State Department. Flags and other trophies of war are kept in this building. Immediately south of the War Department stands the

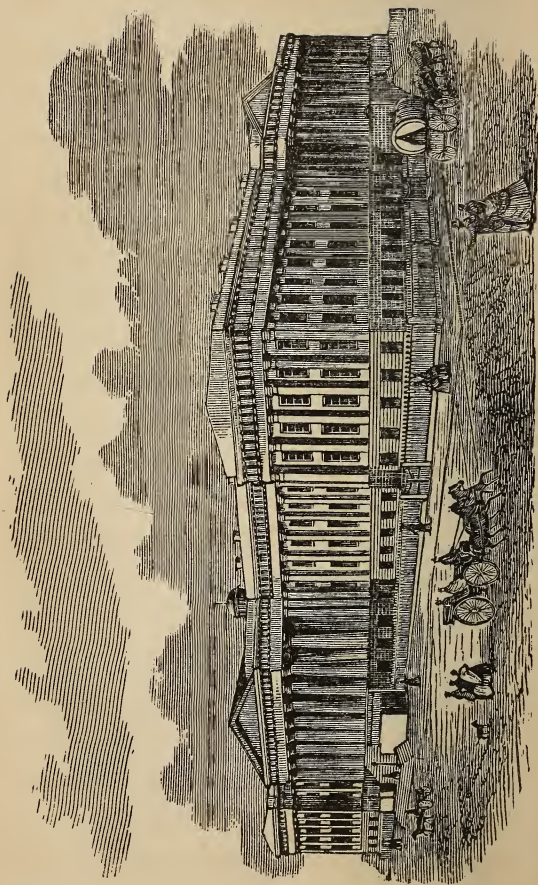
NAVY DEPARTMENT,

A similar structure to the State and War Departments. In this building is conducted all business matters relating to the American navy. About forty flags—the trophies of naval battles—are displayed here, all labelled so as to show the names of the vessels from which they were captured and other circumstances of their history. On the corner opposite this building is “Winder’s Building,” in which the Pension Office and other public offices

are kept. Continuing his course to the west from Winder's Building, or the "Pension Office," as it is usually called, the stranger is carried to the

NATIONAL OBSERVATORY,

Situated on Camp Hill, and commanding a most lovely view. This institution is under the superintendence of Lieut. Maury, U.S.N., and is devoted to astronomical purposes. The building is cruciform, and looks to the north. It contains a complete assortment of astronomical instruments, among which are the mural circle, meridian transit, a large transit for determining the right ascension of stars, the prime vertical, circle of refraction invented by Lieut. Maury, and, last and greatest, the equatorial telescope. Officers of the navy, in charge of these instru-



THE PATENT OFFICE, FROM THE S. E.

ments, show them to visitors, and extend to them the privilege of "stargazing," except when the instruments are in actual use for scientific purposes. The observatory is surmounted by a dome, projecting far above which is a staff, from which at the precise moment of noon every day descends a large ball or globe, announcing to the citizens the correct time. Returning to Pennsylvania Avenue, the stranger turns off in front of the Treasury Department into F Street, which leads him to the

PATENT OFFICE.

This should more appropriately be called the Department of the Interior, since that Department now occupies the building. It occupies two entire squares, and, for grandeur united with

symmetry and grace, is not surpassed by any building perhaps in the world. The style is Doric, and the main portico is a *fac-simile* of the famous temple of Minerva at Athens, called the *Parthenon*. The centre building, entered from F Street, is used for the business of the Patent Office; attached to which, and extending through the third story of the east wing, is the collection of models, representing in miniature every conceivable tool or implement in use. In the highest story of the main or centre building is the National Gallery or Museum, which is the grandest and most interesting collection of natural, artistic, and historical curiosities and relics in America. The original Declaration of Independence, the uniform, camp-equipage, and other relics of Washing-

ton, are kept here. Nothing but a visit to the spot could convey to the minds of strangers any conception of this most attractive hall. The east wing is occupied by the Interior Department. The west wing is not yet completed: it is designed for the use of the Pension Office. On the square immediately south of the Patent Office is the

GENERAL POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

This building will occupy an entire square of ground: one-half has been completed several years; the remainder is now in course of erection. It is built of white marble, in the Corinthian style, and is generally the favorite specimen of architectural beauty in the metropolis. The principal objects of interest in this building are the first

book in which all the post-office accounts and transactions were kept in the infancy of the Republic, and is in the handwriting of Dr. Franklin, the first postmaster general; and the dead-letter office, which is also full of interest.

A few squares east of the Post-office Department is the

CITY HALL,

In which the courts of the district and the municipal offices of Washington City are kept, and which was planned by George Hadfield. It stands at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue and 4½ Street. The original design was very beautiful, but has not yet been carried out. The building presents a handsome and symmetrical front of two hundred feet, and when finished

will be surmounted by a majestic dome.

Passing down Louisiana Avenue to 7th Street, the stranger will reach, through a very dirty and unseemly part of the town, in the midst of which the principal market is situated,—

THE MALL,

Or, as now called, the *Public Grounds*. These embrace about one hundred and twenty acres of land, and run in a direction so as to connect the Capitol grounds with those of the President and La Fayette Square, embracing altogether nearly two hundred acres. A plan for the improvement and beautifying of these grounds, designed by the late lamented Andrew J. Downing, has been adopted by the Government and partially carried into execution. This

plan contemplates parks, groves of evergreen shrubbery, and flower-beds, fountains, suspension-bridges, foot-walks, and a grand serpentine carriage-drive, from the Capitol to the Jackson equestrian statue, six miles in length. The Tiber runs through a portion of these grounds, upon the banks of which is erected a fine conservatory, containing rare and beautiful plants, native and exotic, most of which were collected by the Exploring Expedition under Captain Wilkes. In that portion of the public grounds lying between 7th and 12th Streets has been erected the

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

This institution owes its existence to the bequest of Mr. James Smithson, an English gentleman of retired and studious habits, who died about eigh-

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

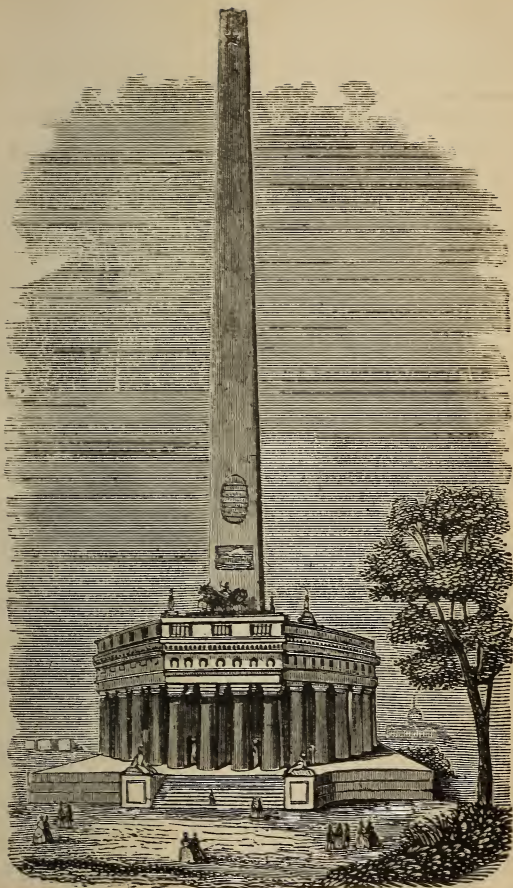


teen years ago at Genoa, leaving his fortune, amounting to over a half-million of dollars, to the Government of the United States, "to found at Washington, under the name of The Smithsonian Institution, an *establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.*" In 1846, Congress passed a law for carrying into effect the will of Mr. Smithson. This building is perfectly unique, being built of red sandstone in the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, which was very fashionable just before and about the time of Queen Elizabeth. Its whole length is 450 feet, its breadth 140 feet, and the structure looks like a vast feudal castle. The building is adorned in various parts by nine towers, varying in height from 75 to 150 feet. It is intended to remove the National Gallery or Mu-

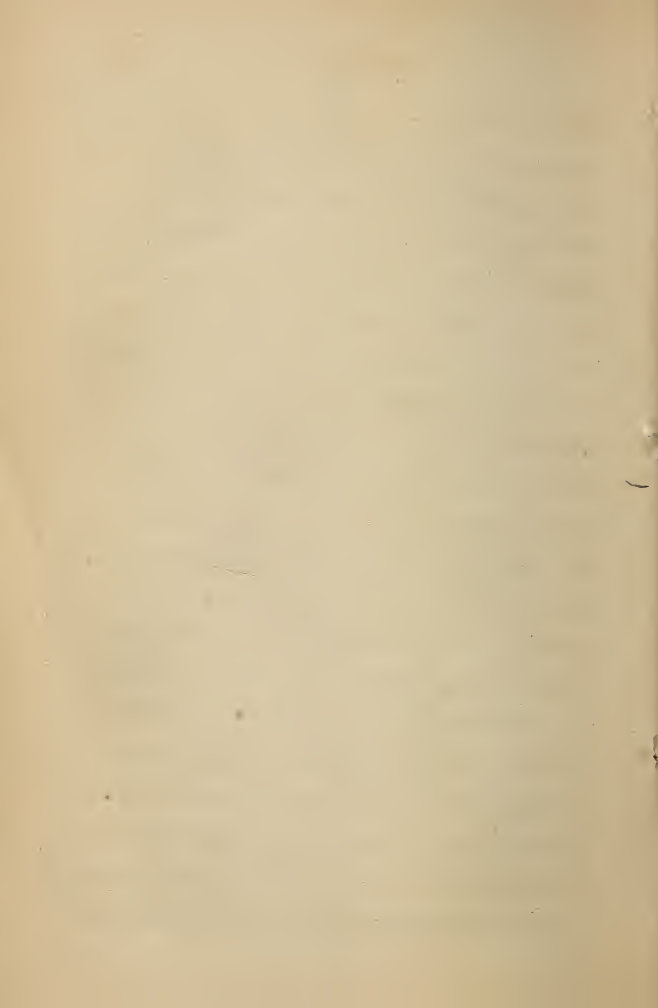
seum from the Patent Office to the Smithsonian Institution. The building contains spacious lecture-rooms, library, reading-room, painting-gallery, galleries of art, geological and mineralogical cabinets, chemical laboratory, many other rooms for the officers of the Institution, and a residence for the secretary or presiding officer. The grounds around are handsomely adorned and laid out, after the plan of Mr. Downing. West of the Smithsonian rises the

WASHINGTON MONUMENT,

Crowning the banks of the Potomac, and towering over every other object, as Washington himself surpassed all other heroes and statesmen. This structure was designed by the late Robert Mills, and is now in course of erection. It has reached the height of



WASHINGTON MONUMENT.



160 feet, and is destined to attain the unprecedented elevation of 600 feet. The design embraces a grand circular colonnade 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet high, to be adorned with the statues of our presidents and other distinguished citizens. From the centre of this colonnade will arise the shaft in solemn grandeur and simplicity. Blocks of stone presented by the States of the Union and foreign governments, as well as by numerous organized bodies in the country, and bearing appropriate inscriptions and devices, will line the interior or cavity of the shaft, so as to be seen in ascending the monument. The view from the top will not be equalled by any similar prospect in the world. This great structure has so far been erected by the voluntary con-

tributions of the citizens of the United States.

Other objects of interest in Washington are, the Arsenal and Penitentiary, on Greenleaf's Point, the Navy Yard, at the mouth of the Eastern Branch, the United States Insane Asylum, on the opposite shore of the Eastern Branch, the Congressional Burial-ground, in which lie the remains of many of the nation's great and lamented dead, the Military Invalid Asylum, in the country north of the city, Columbian College, near the Military Asylum, the studio of Clark Mills, northeast of the city, on the line of the railroad, Glenwood Cemetery, the gallery of paintings belonging to W. W. Corcoran, Esq., at his residence opposite La Fayette Square, the galleries of Charles King, Esq., on 12th

Street between E and F, and of J. C. McGuire, Esq., on E between 6th and 7th Streets, which, though private collections, strangers are permitted to visit. The following are the principal

CHURCHES.

BAPTIST.

First.—10th Street between E and F; Rev. S. P. Hill.

E Street.—Between 6th and 7th, on E Streets; Rev. Mr. Samson.

13th Street.—Between G and H, on 13th Streets; Rev. Mr. Teasdale.

CATHOLIC.

St. Patrick's.—F Street between 9th and 10th; Rev. Messrs. O'Toole and Boyle.

St. Matthew's.—Corner of H and 15th Streets; Rev. Messrs. Byrne and Donelan.

St. Peter's.—2d between C and D Streets, Capitol Hill; Rev. Mr. Knight.

St. Mary's, (German,)—5th between G and H Streets; Rev. Mr. Alig.

St. Dominick's.—On 6th Street Island; Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Clarkson.

EPISCOPAL.

Christ's.—G Street between 6th and 7th, Navy Yard; Rev. Mr. Morsell.

Ascension.—H Street between 9th and 10th; Rev. Mr. Stanly.

Epiphany.—G Street between 13th and 14th; Rev. Mr. French.

St. John's.—Corner of 16th and H Streets; Rev. Smith Pine.

Trinity.—Corner of 3d and C Streets; Rev. George Cummings.

Grace.—On the Island; Rev. Mr. Holmead.

FRIENDS.

J Street, between 18th and 19th Streets.

LUTHERAN.

English.—Corner of 11th and H Streets; Rev. Mr. Rutho.

German.—G between 19th and 20th Streets; Rev. Mr. Finkle.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

Foundry.—Corner of 14th and G Streets; Rev. Mr. Phelps.

Wesley Chapel.—Corner of F and 5th Streets; Rev. Mr. Brown.

Ryland.—10th Street, Island.

PRESBYTERIAN.

First.—4½ Street between C Street and La Fayette Avenue; Rev. Mr. Sunderland.

Second.—Between New York Avenue

and H, 13th and 14th Streets; Rev. Mr. Eckard.

F Street.—Between 14th and 15th Streets; Rev. Mr. Gurley.

Fourth.—9th Street between G and H Streets; Rev. John C. Smith.

Assembly's Church, Northern Liberties; Rev. Mr. Caruthers.

CONGREGATIONALIST.

5th Street, between D and E Streets.

UNITARIAN.

Corner of D and 6th Streets; Rev. Mr. Conway.

METHODIST SOUTH.

8th Street, between H and J Streets.

SWEDENBORGIAN.

Capitol Hill, north of the Capitol; Rev. Mr. Dawes. The morning hour of service is eleven.

GEORGETOWN.

Every visitor to the metropolis should also extend his visit to Georgetown, which is a town of some commerce, lying west of Washington and at the point where Rock Creek empties into the Potomac. The leading feature of this city is its literary and educational institutions, which are attended by scholars from every State in the Union, and frequently from other countries. Georgetown College, founded in 1789, is a full university, conducted by the Roman Catholic order of Jesuits, and has at Washington a medical department under the care of eminent professional gentlemen of the latter place. The Academy of the Visitation, another Catholic institution, is one of the principal female educa-

tional institutions in the United States. Mrs. English's Academy for Young Ladies has also an excellent reputation. An aqueduct 1446 feet long passes over the Potomac at Georgetown, and connects the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal with the canal leading to Alexandria. The Heights of Georgetown are exceedingly admired for their natural beauty, splendid residences, and the magnificent view they present. Oak Hill Cemetery is situated on the heights, and as a place of burial is not surpassed, for solemn grandeur and natural beauty, by any cemetery in the country. The population of Georgetown is about 9500 or 10,000.

ALEXANDRIA

Is no longer a part of the District of Columbia, having been retroceded to Virginia by Congress at the request of the inhabitants. The place was founded in 1748, and is now an emporium of considerable commerce, its trade being chiefly with the West Indies, the Southern States, and sometimes with Europe. It is situated on the banks of the Potomac, about six miles from Washington. So important a place was Alexandria in 1755 that five of the colonial governors assembled there to meet General Braddock in relation to his expedition to the West, which set out from this place. The road over the hills was long known as "Braddock's Road." The house in which the colonial governors

assembled is known as the "*Mansion House*," adjoins the principal hotel of the town, and is kept in repair and good preservation as a relic of "the times that tried men's souls." The spot on which Braddock pitched his tents is now occupied by the old Episcopal Church. Alexandria is chiefly celebrated by its association with the name of the good and great Washington. It was here that Washington attended church, came to vote, where he received his letters and transacted most of his business while resident at Mount Vernon. The Bible used by General Washington in his lifetime was presented to the old Episcopal Church by George W. P. Custis, Esq., and is now in constant use in the church; and the general's pew is still pointed out with veneration to stran-

gers. The Museum, besides a great number of natural and other curiosities, contains many relics of Washington. The population of Alexandria is nearly 12,000.

MOUNT VERNON.

No stranger should ever think of leaving the metropolis without visiting Mount Vernon, the residence of Washington, and now the last resting-place of his mortal remains. This sacred spot is on the Virginia side of the Potomac, about fifteen miles from the city of Washington, and is now owned and occupied by members of the Washington family. It is reached by steamboats, of which there are two or three trips a week, thus affording to every one an opportunity of making this most grateful pilgrimage. The

natural beauty and grandeur of Mount Vernon are not surpassed by any country-seat on the banks of the romantic and picturesque Potomac. The mansion is of wood, two stories high, ninety-six feet in length, and has a portico extending its whole front. The internal structure and arrangement are the same as they were in the days of Washington; and so reverently had every thing been preserved precisely as the general left them, that when La Fayette visited Mount Vernon in 1824 he remarked to Mr. Levasseur that "every object in the house was just the same as when he saw it twenty-eight years before." The principal key of the Bastile is still hanging on a nail in the hall where La Fayette, who presented it to Washington, said that Washington

hung it with his own hand. The beautiful marble mantels which adorn the rooms were sent to Washington from Italy. The pictures on the walls are interesting in the extreme, and the house is full of objects reminding visitors of the great departed. A registry is kept in the parlor, in which every visitor is eager to record his name. In ascending the mount, the visitor finds himself suddenly before the *Tomb of Washington*, overwhelmed and lost in profound sensation and awe. The ashes of the hero repose in a white marble sarcophagus, on the lid of which are cut the arms of America: the only inscription is "George Washington." Beside it is a similar tomb, having the inscription "Martha, consort of Washington." It is a beautiful and appropriate custom with the

steamers plying on the Potomac never to pass Mount Vernon without tolling their bells. Returning, the steamer stops at

FORT WASHINGTON,

Looming up from the banks of the river, a faithful sentinel over the safety of the metropolis of the nation. The fort is on the Maryland side, about midway between Alexandria and Mount Vernon. Visitors are freely admitted to visit it, and are frequently gratified by witnessing a parade-drill of the soldiers.

Mem.—Many days are required to see all that these few pages have described.

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
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
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
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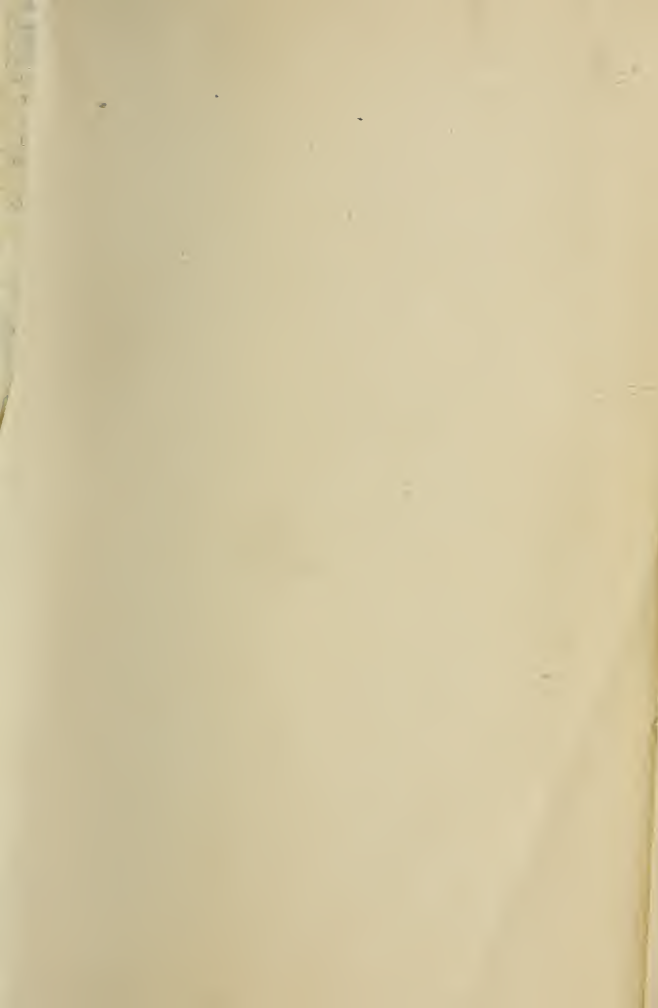
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